(c) the number of such children who were adopted during the years 2003 and 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, there are 74 agencies recognized by Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) for providing care to orphaned and abandoned children and their placement in adoption within the country and wherever not possible, then with Indian and foreign parents living abroad. In addition, 40 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are receiving grant-in-aid under the scheme 'Assistance to Homes for Infant and Young Children for promoting In-Country Adoption' for running homes for care of orphaned and abandoned children and to place them in Indian adoption.

(c) The number of children adopted from the Adoption centres/homes run by the CARA recognized agencies and NGOs assisted under the scheme during the years 2003 and 2004 are as below:

2003		2004	
In-Country	Inter-Country	In-Country	Inter-Country
2409	1024	2168	1021

Funds for Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

2232. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation is being implemented satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the funds released during the current financial year; and

(c) if no funds have been released, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Funds have not been released under the Scheme of

Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) during the current year for want of an evaluation study.

Reservation in private sector

2233. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across hurdles in attaining the objective of giving reservation in jobs to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes in private sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation for the purpose;

(c) whether any amendment to the Constitution is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The GoM has not submitted its report so far.

Schemes for welfare of older persons

2234. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of older persons is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their care and protection; and

(c) whether any new schemes have been launched for the welfare of older persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.